

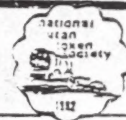


THE TOKEN HUNTER

A Publication of the

National Utah Token Society
6143 Rainy Lane, Murray, UT 84107

VOL 7 NO 2



Dedicated to Collecting, Recording, and Preserving Medals and Tokens

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February Meeting

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

February Raffle Prizes

1. Indep. Coal & Coke, Kenilworth, GF 5 stks
2. MC (SLC) GF 5c
3. AB (Park City) GF 5c
4. Schaeffer Bros., Stratford, Iowa, GF 5c
5. Watch Fob w/ American Eagle
6. Wilbur E. Jensen, Hyrum, Ut., (Uno)
7. One silver Dollar
8. 2 Peso Gold
and more

Next Meeting

The next club meeting will be held February 25, at 7:15 p.m., at the Redwood MultiPurpose Center, 3100 South, Redwood Road. Our speaker will be Ron Greenleaf, a detective with the Salt Lake Police Department. He will speak on gambling chips and gaming tokens and will display a number of casino chips. The presentation will be interesting. You won't want to miss it.

Look for Doug Wright to speak on the Eureka area on March 24. April 28 will be a bourse and auction night.

For those of you who may be interested, the club now have a letter from the Redwood Multipurpose Center confirming the right to use the facility.

Token Hunter Notes

If you are among those of us who were fond of the old masthead, we hope you won't be too disappointed with the new one. Sometimes a change is fun.

The editor appreciates your suggestions for improvement of the Token Hunter. Your indulgence is also appreciated as the bugs are worked out. We again solicit your articles and other contributions and express our appreciation to those who have provided material for this issue. Special thanks go to De Kelsey and George Wilson. Also, we thank the Tanner Special Collections Room of the University of Utah Marriott Library for allowing publication of a portion of the Joseph Davich papers. Further, we acknowledge that the article "The Company Stores of Park City, Utah" appeared originally in Vol. 2, Issue 6, of Token Topics, the METCA journal (June, 1972) and the two copied newspaper articles were originally published in the Park Record.

President's Message

Dear NUTS Members,

We had a great turnout for our last meeting. It was almost double last year's average attendance. We would like to thank De Kelsey for a most enjoyable talk on tokens. Like he said, we must have some kind of drug addiction to be collecting trade tokens, given the time and money we spend just looking for them.

At our January raffle we had roughly three times the number of prizes that were given away at the last meeting and we will have that again. Remember that a gold piece will be given away again in February. See the front of this page for a complete list of prizes. By the way, Ken Lambson took home the gold in January. Too bad he's not in Calgary, we could use him!

We have had several new members join the club in the past couple of months. If you see someone you don't know at the meeting, introduce yourself and make a friend.

George Wilson generously accepted the job of General Show Chairman for 1988. The dates for the show will be June 25 and 26. We will supply you with more information on the show as soon as possible.

This month's speaker will be Ron Greenleaf. He is a detective with the Salt Lake Police Department. He collects gambling chips and tokens. He has quite a big collection and will display many examples of casino chips. He will also answer any general questions concerning police matters or policies.

In a board meeting this past month we voted to give an extra raffle ticket at the Christmas dinner for everyone who joins the club, one for single memberships and 2 for families.

Remember to pay your dues and bring someone new to the meeting and we'll see you there.

See Ya, Bob

P.S. You are invited to attend the Northern Utah Coin Show Mar 18-20 at the Ogden Hilton. Free admission and prizes. Exhibit and bourse table applications will be available at the meeting.

Wagonmaster Notes - John Sroka

I look forward to being one of the Wagonmasters this year. As I asked around about where we should go this year I found that two trips are written in stone. We will be going to Frisco on Memorial Day weekend, and we will be going to Fish Springs again this year. Thus far other suggestions that have been made include Goldstrike, Osiris, Widtsoe, West Dip, and a Nevada trip which will be planned by John Nutting. If you have any suggestions for Club trips please give me a call. My phone number is on the first page of the Token Hunter. Remember only two trips are definite so far. Please call now before the other four or five trips are finalized, which should be this month.

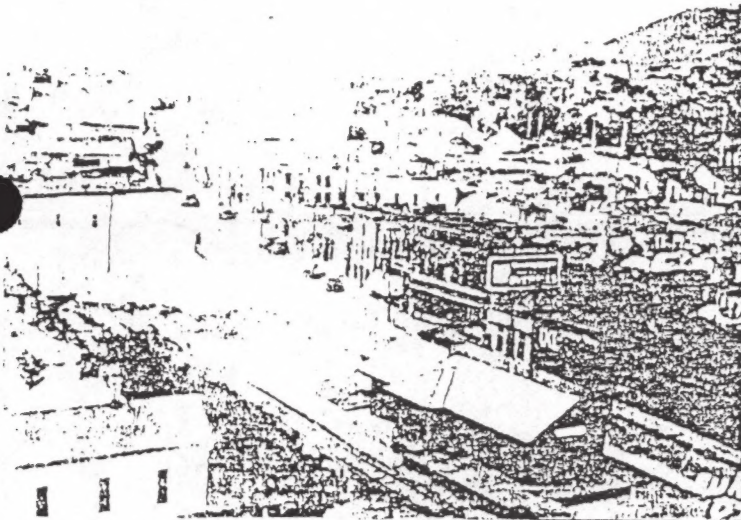
I only have one other thing to bring up. This year at our Christmas dinner there will be a special drawing for one item and the only way you will have a shot at it is to come to the digs. You will get one ticket for each club dig that you attend.

SALOONS AND THE TINTIC MINING DIST.

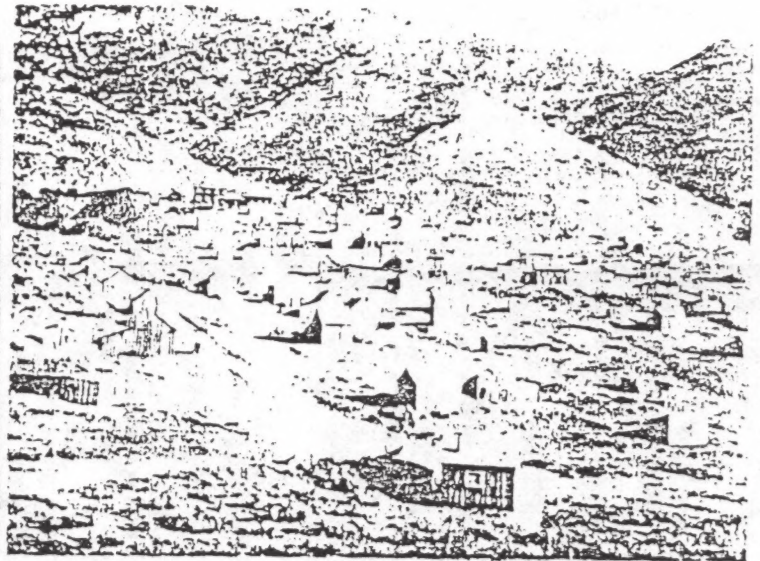
BY DE KELSEY - ATCO #81

ON DECEMBER 13, 1869, THE SUN BEAM LODE WAS LOCATED IN THE SOON TO BE TINTIC MINING DISTRICT OF UTAH. TINTIC BECAME THE SECOND LARGEST GOLD PRODUCER IN THE STATE OF UTAH, AND BY 1959 GOLD PRODUCTION IN OUNCES-PRODUCED PLACED THE TINTIC DISTRICT TWENTIETH IN THE TOP TWENTY-FIVE PRINCIPAL GOLD MINING DISTRICTS OF THE UNITED STATES. THE 2,648.000 OUNCES PRODUCED PLACES IT AHEAD OF THE MOTHER LODE DISTRICT IN CALAVERAS COUNTY, CALIFORNIA (2,046.000).

THE TINTIC MINING DISTRICT WAS MADE UP OF NINE (9) TOWNS EUREKA, ROBINSON, MAMMOTH, IRONTOWN, DIVIDEND, SILVER CITY, DIAMOND, HOMANVILLE, AND KNIGHTSVILLE. AND SOME 35 SALOONS OR BARS THUS PLACING IT IN THE TOP FIVE SALOON AND BAR TOKEN PRODUCERS IN THE STATE OF UTAH.



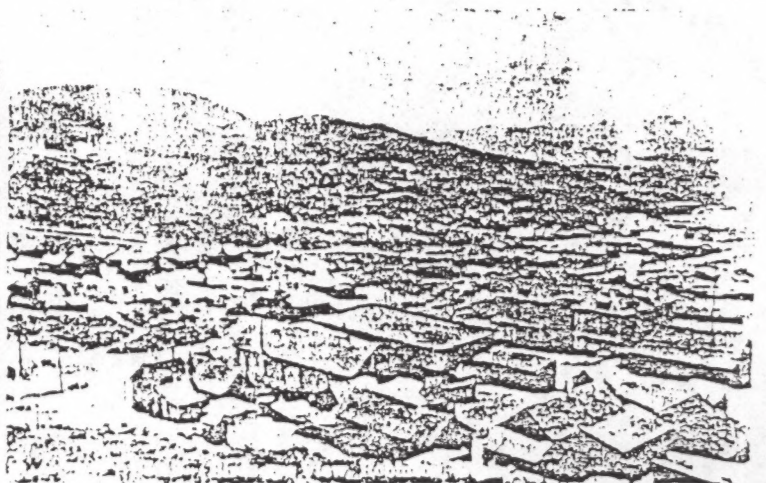
View of Eureka camp



Mammoth (Uppertown) in 1879.



Southeast view of Jesse Knight's Knightsville.



Middletown and Robinson (Lowertown)

IT WAS IN 1871 THAT B.T. LeDUC A FRENCH-CANADIAN, AND HIS PARTNER, JACK GILLIN CAME RIDING IN TO RUBY HOLLOW, LATER TO BE NAMED EUREKA. THEY ARRIVED WITH THREE BARRELS OF HARD LIQUOR AND OPENED THE FIRST SALOON IN A DUGOUT. OUTSIDE THE DOOR A ROUGH BENCH WAS CONSTRUCTED AND OVER THE DOOR THE WORD "SALOON" WAS PRINTED. THIS SAME YEAR ANOTHER SALOON WAS OPENED BY U.S. JACKSON AND WILLIAM HATFIELD. THE NAME OF THIS SALOON WAS MCMURPHY & HARTWELL SALOON. IT IS NOT KNOWN WHY THEY WOULD CALL IT BY TWO NAMES OTHER THAN THEIR OWN, AT THIS SAME TIME THE FIRST PROSTITUTE ARRIVED AND SET UP SHOP. THUS THIS WAS THE START OF WHAT WAS TO BECOME A GREAT SALOON AND BAR TOKEN COLLECTING AREA, AS WELL AS MANY OTHER TYPES OF TOKENS. ALTHOUGH NOT MANY TOKENS WITH THE WORD SALOON ON THEM ARE KNOWN AT THIS TIME, THEY ARE STILL SHOWING UP ALL THE TIME. THERE ARE A GREAT NUMBER OF BAR TOKENS. TWO TRADE MIRRORS ARE KNOWN FROM EUREKA THE UNCLE SAM AND THE OXFORD RESORT. YOU MAY CHECK YOUR MAVERICKS FOR SOME OF THE FOLLOWING SALOONS; CUSICK SALOON, BUCKET OF BLOOD, COSMOPOLITAN, IRISH WISKEY, FINN, SILVER DOLLAR, OXFORD SALOON, CAPTAIN CHOPE SALOON (CAPS PLACE), MURPHY AND WILLIAMS, MIKE SULLIVAN, HUB SALOON, FITZGERALD SALOON, EXCELSIOR SALOON, MC MURPHY AND HARTWELL SALOON, ELITE SALOON, DIAMOND SALOON, WHITE ELEPHANT AND THE UNCLE SAM.



SOME OWNERS OF THESE SALOONS HAD A SALOON OR BAR IN OTHER MINING CAMPS, OXFORD RESORT WAS OWNED BY JAMES CROOK. HE HAD A BAR IN BINGHAM CANYON, AND MARK CITY. ALSO JOHN SMITH OWNED SMITHS BAR IN MAMMOTH, ROBINSON, EUREKA, AND SILVER CITY, ALONG WITH INTERESTS IN SEVERAL BAR AND SALOONS IN BINGHAM CANYON. BE SURE TO CHECK YOUR MAVERICKS, YOU MAY HAVE ONE, IF SO SEND ME A RUBBING.

The Joseph Davich Papers - Installment 1

This month I would like to take a few lines to introduce a new feature in the Token Hunter. I am sure most of our Utah members have heard of or seen reference to Joseph Davich and his token collection. This is understandable since Mr. Davich researched tokens, scrip, and other items related to the merchants of Park City for about 15 years.

Joseph J. Davich was born in Park City on March 5, 1925. He was a graduate of Park City High School and of the Los Angeles School of embalming. He twice served in the U.S. Navy, first during World War II from 1943 to 1946 and again in 1951 and 1952 during the Korean conflict. In the 1950s he served as a councilman in Park City and was a member of the Park City Elks Lodge and V.F.W. Post. In later years he resided in Salt Lake City, where he worked as a mortician.

His interest in tokens began around 1960. Over the next 15 years he collected 203 tokens and 22 scrip items and extensively researched the merchants of Park City. After his death in 1975 his widow Jean donated his extensive papers and collection to the University of Utah. Today they may be seen at the Marriot Library. Literally hundreds of pages of research along with token rubbings, photos, letters, and newspaper clippings and articles written by and about Mr. Davich make up the "Davich Collection." Mr. Davich intended to write a book on the merchants of Park City. Unfortunately, the book was never completed.

By arrangement with the Marriot Library, we will reproduce a portion of the papers assembled and written by Mr. Davich. Except for occasional editor's notes, they will be presented in their original form. This month we have included two articles about Mr. Davich which appeared in the Park Record and one article by Mr. Davich which appeared in the June 1972 issue of Token Topics, the newsletter of the now defunct Merchant Token Collectors' Association.

I am sure you will agree that Joseph Davich was one of the true pioneers of Utah Numismatics.

George

Token Collection Complete

Joe Davich, well-known former Parkite, has been invited to present a talk to the Valley Chapter of the Utah State Historical Society on April 12 at 8 p.m.

"Tokens and Merchants of Utah" will be the title of his program with emphasis on tokens of old Park City.

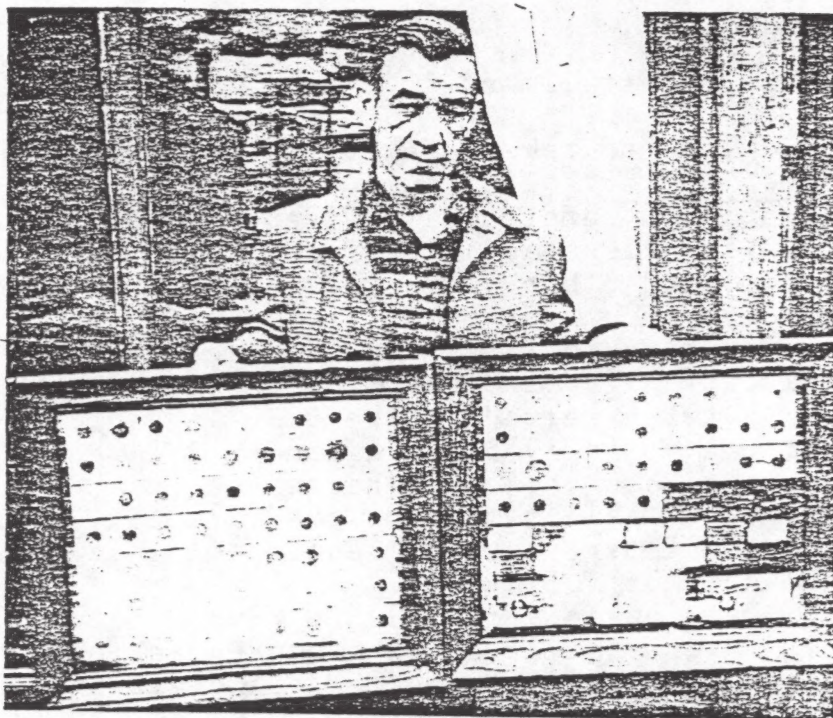
Joe has been a collector for many years and for the past ten years has been working on the Park City tokens. Today he has procured and researched well over one hundred specimens.

There are 95 metal tokens, a complete set

of paper tokens from both The Cozy and The Oak and a set of New Deal Market coupon books, \$2.50, \$5.00 and \$10.00.

His collection ranges from the very earliest 1879 token from the M.S. Ascheim Mercantile Company which was situated on the site of the present day Memorial Building, through the "big" years in Park City to the mid 1930's when this sort of advertising was discontinued.

Joe is still looking for possible new additions to his Park City collection and would welcome assistance or information about both B & L and the Manhattan Bar.



Historical Society Gets 'Token' Lecture

Members of Park City's Historical Society were treated to an informative lecture on the use of "trade" or "merchant" tokens in the Society's Thursday, January 23rd meeting.

Presented by Park City token collector Joe J. Davich, the lecture concentrated on the history of tokens used by Park City merchants in the 1800 and early 1900's.

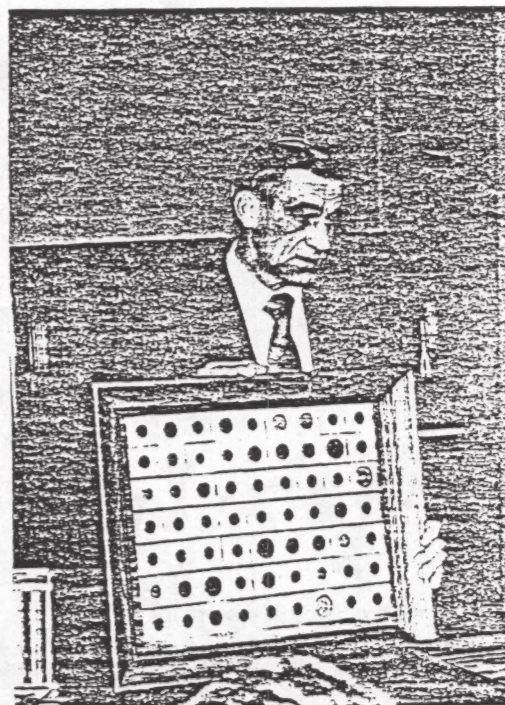
Mr. Davich, who was born and raised in Park City, has been collecting tokens for the last 15 years. He undoubtedly has the largest collection of Park City tokens in the world.

Reviewing the history of tokens in general, Mr. Davich told the Historical Society group that tokens were first extensively used during the Civil War. He estimated that between 8,000 and 10,000 tokens came out of the Civil War era.

He explained that the use of tokens was necessitated due to a lack of small U.S. currency. They served the dual purpose of providing a medium of exchange other than money and a cheap means of advertising.

In Park City, most of the tokens used by merchants were of the saloon variety. The tokens were issued to merchants by the Salt Lake Stamp Company and were made from cheap metals like brass or aluminum.

Not simply a collector of tokens, Mr. Davich is also concerned with tracing the history behind the token. This



Joe Davich

is often a difficult task, as most tokens only bear the merchant's first name.

Being an authority on Park City tokens has also made Mr. Davich somewhat knowledgeable on Park City

saloons. He estimated that in 1892 Main Street maintained 25 bars. Although the number fluctuated throughout the next seven years in 1900 Main Street's saloon population peaked at a record 41.

THE COMPANY STORES OF PARK CITY, UTAH

by Joe J. Davich, METCA #226

In the late 1800's and at the turn of the century, the so-called Company Stores could be found in every section of our country. The operations of such stores seemed to be of greater advantage for the companies than for the working man. Various forms of scrip were issued by the Company and the employee was compelled to spend it back with the Company. The worker therefore had very little United States money in his pocket at any given time. But in the once great silver-producing mining town of Park City, Utah, which can be dated back to 1862, two company-owned and operated stores did exist at one time and the way they were formed and operated is something most unique.

During 1918 and 1919, Park City had quite a population growth: all mines were working in full force and many new bodies of ore were being discovered which kept the stockholders happy and the stock market in full bloom. The men at the Judge Mining Company, however, complained severely to the company officials that the Park City merchant prices were too high for them to maintain their daily needs. The company went to the local merchants in hopes that they might make some adjustments in their pricing methods, but their appeal carried no impact.

So in 1919 the Judge Mining Company was more or less forced into opening the Summit County Mercantile. Here the worker could purchase groceries, clothing, etc., at 10% above the company costs. All invoices of the original cost of goods were placed in the store for inspection by the workers. This store was operated for the working force of this mine and no one else could make a purchase there. The daily business transaction was handled by the 'coupon booklet' which the worker had to request at the company office. This amount would then be deducted by the so-called 'check-off system' which occurred every 'half', or two week period. If the employee decided to draw his 'time' and had the coupon booklets in his possession, he would be paid the proper amount due him in cash or by company check. This store remained in business until 1933, after which its doors were closed forever. During its many years of business, at no time could a cash sale be made over the counter and no cash register could be found on the premises. Any clerk caught making a cash sale was fired immediately and no questions were asked. The company had very strict rules and regulations concerning its operations.

In 1929 the Silver King Mining Company, the largest silver-producing mine in the area, received many complaints from its working force. They felt that since the Judge Company had its own company store, they too should have a store where prices might be reasonable. In order to satisfy the men, the Woodside Store & Woodside Coal Company was opened in 1920. This store operated until 1936 but in all its years it was known as the 'King Store.' In similar fashion as the Judge Company, the Silver King Mining Company purchased commodities in carload lots, passing the savings on to their men. Each company also operated large boarding and bunk houses which meant a great savings to them in their daily operations.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 86)

THE COMPANY STORES OF PARK CITY, UTAH (cont'd.)

The King Store at first issued the coupon booklets but felt that this method created too much bookkeeping. So they changed their system to the so-called check-off system. Each employee had a regular charge book at the store with his name on it. After two weeks of trading, the manager of the store would call the company office, listing the amount due at the store. This amount due was deducted from the miner's paycheck and the balance was paid by company check. The King Store had rigid rules that only company employees could trade at the store. Here again no cash sales were ever recorded in its many years of business and no cash register could be found on the premises. I have been told that years ago, Robert Ripley in his column, 'Believe It Or Not,' had quite an article on the unusual operations of the two company stores. He quoted the amount that had been transacted there and yet, no one can ever say that he heard the 'ring' of a cash register. The opening of the company stores wasn't a money making proposition for the companies. In fact over the years, they showed the books to be in the red most of the time, but it was a forced issue by the workers which was most unique in itself.

So the company stores appeared on the scene and left in a silent way, and only the faint remembrance remains today. The buildings they once occupied have been torn down, only the empty lots can be found on Main Street. To a collector it's very sad that not even one of the original coupon booklets can be found because when the stores ceased operations, the companies made certain that all the booklets were destroyed.

Dues - Don't Delay

If you haven't yet paid your club dues, there's still time before you lose club privileges. The benefits are great and the financial commitment is minimal. Remember, its only \$7.50 for individual dues and \$12.50 for families.

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The Tokens of Mercur's Golden Gate Saloon

Copyright, Norm Johnson

In the late 1960's, when I was a boy scout, Mercur was a favorite Fall and Spring haunt. We weren't smart enough to metal detect or relic hunt and were just dumb enough to explore every vacant mine shaft in sight. But, we did have fun. I remember visits to the Special Collections Room of the Salt Lake Public Library to research old mining journals in preparation for our trips. There was an old shepherd who parked his camp wagon about two-thirds of the way up the Mercur Canyon (or, at least, what we called the Mercur Canyon). We always stopped to talk to him on our way to the town. My interest in and imagination for this article come more as a result of my boy scout memories of Mercur "the" ghost town, as well as by fascination with all of Utah's history, than my love for saloons.

On February 3, 1988, on my way to a meeting in southern California, I flew over the west slope of the Oquirrh mountains. It was a lazy flight, with only a few people on board. It was just the right setting for an imaginative mind.

I never realized how close the Bingham mine is to the Tooele Valley. I also never realized how identifiable the Ophir, West Dip, Manning, and Mercur town sites are from the air. I could not help wondering what it would have been like to fly over this area when the towns were bustling with the activity of Utah's mining boom. I closed my eyes and could almost hear blasting and see buckboards snaking down the canyons and smoke swirls rising from chimnies. I thought of a few who made fortunes and of many who simply put in a day's work for a day's pay. I also wondered why some places draw the attention of so many for such a long period of time. Most of all, I was fascinated by the Mercur area, both because it has been on my mind as I have thought about this article and because it still shows signs of mining activity.

The first account of Mercur's origin was apparently published in the The Engineering and Mining Journal (Vol. LXIII, Apr. 24) in 1897 by R. C. Gemmell, general manager of the Utah Copper Company. The initial location in the Mercur area was, of all things, a placer claim filed by L. Greely in April of 1870. Where the water for such a claim could have possibly come from is a mystery to me. In 1872 the first lode claims were filed. Among them were the Sparrow Hawk, Last Chance, and Marion. The ore loads were sporadic. Significant investment of capital in the area brought only marginal return. Nevertheless, by the middle 1870s the town of Lewiston appeared, complete with dance halls, mercantiles, and gaming rooms. By 1880 some 1,500 people called Lewiston home. However, no consistently paying mine could be found and Lewiston became the first ghost town of Utah's mining era. Only the die-hards remained.

One of the miners who wouldn't quit, according to Douglas Alder in his article "The Ghost of Mercur" (Utah Historical Quarterly, Vol. XXIX, pg. 31), was a Bavarian named Arie Pinedo who located the Mercur lode. Tradition has it that he found a vein of cinnabar and named the lode after a derivation of its

product - mercury. Pinedo succeeded in extracting only small amounts of mercury and no real mercury development occurred, but the name "Mercur," again according to tradition, stuck. The author harbors doubts about this tradition being the "true" story of how Mercur got its name since the local newspaper published in Lewiston some years before Pinedo's discovery was called the Lewiston Mercury. One good thing about traditions is they don't have to be substantiated.

A gold load was discovered in the Mercur area in 1883, but its development was to wait a few years for new technology to appear. By this time there was no question that Mercur was one of those unusual places where minerals were abundant and close at hand; the challenge was making them pay.

About 1890 the McArthur-Forrest cyanide process for milling low-grade gold ore was discovered. At the same time the interest in and demand for gold greatly increased at the national level. The Mercur ore now became so profitable that water conveyance facilities (from the Ophir area), high-voltage power lines (from Salt Lake City), railroad tracks (over the Oquirrh), and a better road (from the Toolele Valley) found their way to Mercur.

In 1895 a serious group of developers bought the Golden Gate Group of claims near the Mercur Mine. Those claims must have been quite a group! Two years later the 500-ton capacity Golden Gate Mill was constructed and Mercur was on its way to becoming one of Utah's prominent mining communities. The mill sat as a sentinel above the town and was the focal point of activity in the community for some years until the Consolidated Mercur Gold Mine Company was formed. The Golden Gate claims inspired not only the name of the Golden Gate Mill, but a Golden Gate Band, a Golden Gate Meat Market, and a Golden Gate Saloon.



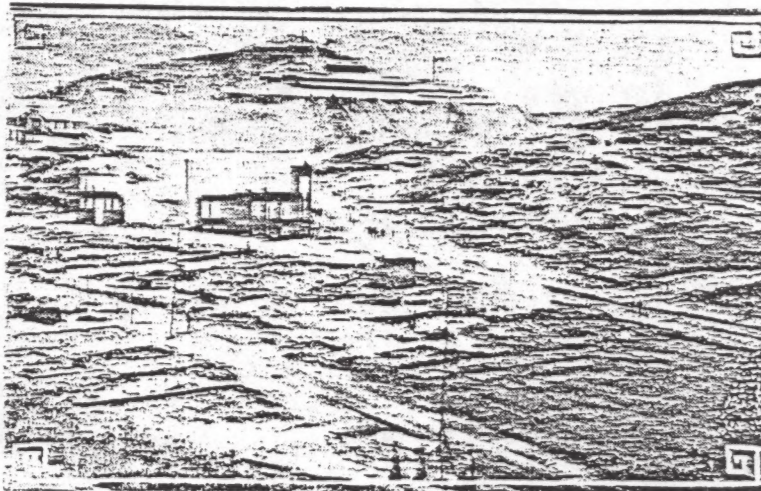
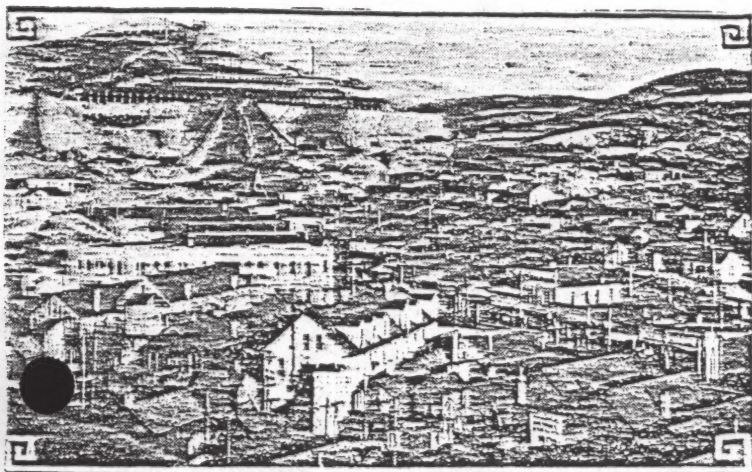
The interior of a saloon in Mercur, Utah, 1895.

Tragedy struck Mercur in 1896 when a fire burned a number of buildings to the ground. Oddly, this fire is only infrequently mentioned in histories of Mercur, although Campbell's Tokens of Utah contains some interesting, but grizzly, details. This is undoubtedly because, bad as the 1896 fire may have been, it paled in comparison to the great fire of 1902. From one account of the early fire, published in the Deseret News, Jan. 6, 1896, we learn that, among other buildings, the Golden Gate Saloon was completely destroyed. The Deseret News was the quasi-official organ of the Mormon church at this time, and may have taken some satisfaction in reporting the saloon's destruction. Mercur was brought back to normal as the leveled buildings were rebuilt.

Mercur reached its zenith at about the turn of the century. The 1900 U.S. Census lists Mercur's population as 2,351. Some newspaper reports claim that it may have been as high as 8,000. It became a "one-mine camp," wrote George Dern in the 1935 Souvenir Edition of The Mercur Miner and the Lewiston Mercury, "...we were all working for, or dependant upon, the same company, and were one big, happy family." The company, Consolidated Mercur Mines, was successful, quite simply, because new milling processes made profitable the ore which existed in abundance in the Mercur area. Things were looking up. The extant photos of Mercur at this period show anything but the typical "one horse town" sort of mining camp. There was an air of permanence about Mercur.

Unfortunately, fire struck Mercur again, this time on June 26, 1902. The before and after pictures of this event show complete destruction of the town. One newspaper account says the fire "...wiped the city off the map." The Consolidated Mill, however, was not burned and continued operating. The income it generated allowed the town to be rebuilt. The mill operated until financial problems came to a head in 1913. Between 1891 and 1912 gross production at Mercur amounted to over \$10,000,000, while dividends paid were more than \$1,230,000. In 1917 the Golden Gate Mill was dismantled and sold and Mercur was no more.

Before and After Fire



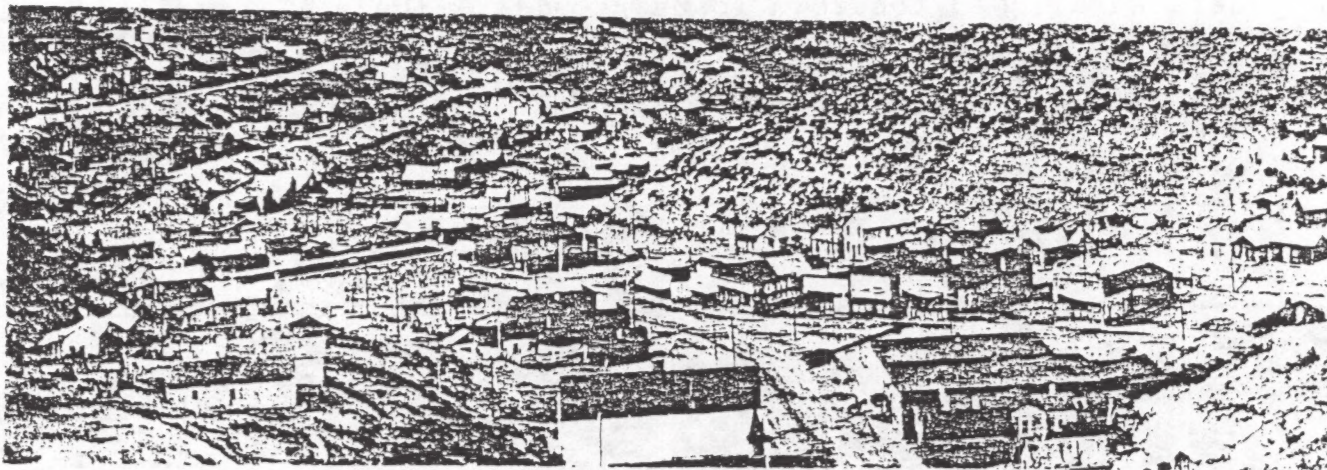
Famous before and after photos of the great Mercur fire of 1902.

In 1933 property in the Mercur area was leased to W.F. Snyder & Son Company and the Manning Gold Mines Company. New technological advances and increased gold prices made the Mercur area profitable once more. The activity started at Manning and moved to Mercur in 1937. It continued until the beginning of World War II.

In the very recent past Mercur has again come to life. According to an article in the Dec. 25, 1987, edition of the Deseret News American Barrick Resources, Inc., is using new technology to "economically remove gold from areas previously abandoned (Mercur in Tooele County and near Elko, Nev.) to boost Utah's economy." The article quotes Barrick officials as saying that they have enough gold reserves at the two sites to keep the company busy for years.

This article can't seem to decide if it wants to be about Mercur, or about the Golden Gate Saloon. Maybe that's because, in a way, the saloon was a microcosm of the town itself. It was supported by the persistence and hard work of miners; when it was up and running it was a sign that times were good and things were prosperous, at least economically; and, although not quite as often as Mercur itself, it arose from its ashes more than once.

We know from the Deseret News account of the 1896 fire that the Golden Gate Saloon was first built in territorial days. The picture below shows the saloon in existence in 1907. From this information we can conclude that there were three Golden Gate Saloons. Assuming the saloon was rebuilt shortly after each fire, the first existed from the middle 1890s to 1896, the second from about 1896 to 1902, and the third from about 1902 until at least 1907, and maybe 1917.



The black arrow points to the Golden Gate Saloon. Picture taken 1907.

Two varieties of Golden Gate Saloon tokens have long been known to exist, one clearly predating the other. Rubbings of them appear below, as figures 1 and 3, courtesy of Bob Campbell. A third variety, which appears as figure 2, has now surfaced. The existence of three varieties of tokens is logical in light of the existence of three saloons. Of course it is possible that

more varieties may appear since the establishment may have used more than one token at a time. Nevertheless, the question arises: in what order were the known varieties issued? Or, which saloon issued which token? The author's conclusion is that they were issued in the order they are reproduced.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



First, the "bit" tokens were generally earlier than the "5 cent" tokens. Hence, the 12 1/2 cent token seems like the earliest of the group. However, a small amount of research showed that some 5 cent tokens were likely issued as early as the middle 1890s, or at least were issued by establishments which were in business at that time. Thus, the difference in the denominations is not conclusive proof concerning the chronology of the tokens. Yet, it seems unlikely that a 5 cent token would have been issued by the saloon, then a 12 1/2 cent token, and then a 5 cent one again, unless, of course, two of the tokens were issued simultaneously.

Second, the metal content, die cut, and size of figure 3 seem to clearly post-date figures 1 and 2. Thus, it was almost certainly issued last. This leaves figure 2 as the token of the middle-period Golden Gate Saloon, 1896-1902.

The appearance of "Seren & Co." on figure 2 seems at first blush to be very important in dating the token. We know John Seren lived in Mercur. We also know he was a merchant/saloon keeper in the Oquirrh Mountain mining camps. He issued a token in Bingham under the establishment name "Seren & Co." However, the dates of his residence in Mercur seem inconclusive when it comes to dating figure 2. He very possibly owned all three Golden Gate Saloons and simply chose to put his name on only one of the tokens he issued.

It is interesting that two of the three tokens are "pictorials." Figure 1 is one of only 5 Utah Saloon tokens which display the Salt Lake Mormon Temple. This lends support to it being the earliest of the tokens since this was an early die. The horseshoe motif is also rare when it comes to Utah Saloons.

Just as Mercur was not one town, but many, the Golden Gate Saloon was not one establishment, but three. Both the town and the Saloon started from scratch more than once. With the town now but a shadow of its former self and the saloon, of course, long extinct, the tokens seem all the more important as a reminder of days past.